

The Contest JUG



NEWSLETTER OF THE
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB
44 Toyon Terrace
Danville, CA 94526

April/May 1988
No. 190

PRESIDENT: NV6Z
VP/CC: WB6MZQ
SEC/TREAS: K6MA
NCCC REPEATER: 147.24 (+600)

AWARDS: K6ZM
JUG EDITOR: W6SZN
DIRECTORS: VE2AQS, K6KLY,
WZ6Z, W6RGG

A NEW BROOM SWEEPS CLEAN

COMING EVENTS

NCCC Meeting
Round Table Pizza
Castro Valley

May 20, 1988
7:30 p.m.

FROM THE NEW PREZ

Another year has passed and a new set of Officers and Directors have taken the reins. My thanks to the past officers and BOD for their support during the last year and those Club members who supported the NCCC. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Looking down the road to 1988-89, the new officers and BOD are putting together a multi-year plan to make the NCCC the number 1 contest club in the nation. We have completed reviewing the survey and have taken all the comments and suggestions under consideration in the long term plan. At the meeting on May 20, 1988, we will have two topics of discussion: 1) results of the NCCC survey and 2) slide show of the Dayton Hamvention.

If you have never attended the Dayton Hamvention, this is an opportunity to see what it is really like. 30,000 hams gathered in one area to rub elbows and buy, buy, buy!

See you at the meeting.

73, Ron, NV6Z

THE PAST PREZ SEZ

1987-88 was a year of change and experimentation in the activities of the Club. Attendance at our meetings was up and our members did their thing in the multitude of contests entered.

The old CWA Hall has probably seen the last of the NCCC Monday night meetings. Restaurant and pizza/beer joint meeting rooms seem to have become the group's preference. The annual picnic has moved to the suburban party pad of WA6VEF, and the annual baptism of newly-converted believers has kept the swimming pool well occupied.

There are many members who put in long hours at Board meetings, Club meetings and at home taking care of the varied things which must be done to keep any organization running well.

I'd like to thank K4UVT for his efforts as VP/CC; VE2AQS for maintaining our records and helping us to remain fiscally sound as Sec/Treas.; KA6ING, WA6VEF, NV6Z and W7MAP for hosting, attending and working at our Directors' meetings.

Special thanks to Ron for publishing and mailing BOD meeting notices and numerous other projects; to Bob St. Germaine for handling the funds at numerous meetings and for the best barbequed steak I've had in a long while; to Gary for his awards and CQP efforts, for hosting our annual picnic, and handling the Visalia Hospitality Suite; to Louese for sharing her culinary skills with us and taking care of the details at many meetings; to Bob Dorsey for the computer listings of our members' scores and standings; to Chuck for printing and distributing the Jug, often with no lead time at all; to Kip for his continuing efforts as the Jug Head and to the Real Jug Head, Shelley Weih; to Phil for assuring our Awards Banquet went off without a hitch, helping with the CQP award design, and taking on the Worked All California Counties Award; to Howard for getting our questionnaire written and analyzed, and providing ideas and advice; and to Rusty, Rich, Carl, Kip and others for attending board meetings to offer their support.

Last of all, thanks to the members for keeping the NCCC at the forefront of the contest scene.

GL Contest es KB,

W6RGG

PJ2FR (N6KT) 1988 ARRL DX PHONE CONTEST

HR	160	80	40	20	15	10	Total	HR	160	80	40	20	15	10	Total
00				367			367	00				77	113		190
01				327			327	01				307			307
02				267			267	02				226			226
03				293			293	03		1		176			177
04				238			238	04			67	64			131
05			140	75			215	05		100	48				148
06		46	157				203	06	39	4		(31 min)			43
07	81	72					153	07				Sleep			
08	42	46	77				165	08		5	72	(50 min)			77
09	34	91					125	09		77	31				108
10	11	53	49				113	10	24	41	5				70
11			68	22	9		99	11			49	23			72
12				67	100		167	12				68	32		100
13				44	149	9	202	13					75	88	163
14						336	336	14							227 227
15						330	330	15							224 224
16						256	256	16					117	104	221
17						258	258	17					268		268
18						287	287	18					219	16	235
19						291	291	19						232	232
20						275	275	20					230	17	247
21						250	250	21					240		240
22						241	241	22					204		204
23					65	120	185	23			12		149		161
	168	308	491	1700	323	2653	5643		63	228	284	941	1647	908	
Grand Total									231	536	775	2641	1970	3561	9714

N6KT SMASHES RECORD!!

In what must be one of the truly amazing contest performances of all time, Rich Smith, N6KT, made 9,714 QSO's in the recent ARRL DX phone contest. Operating from PJ2FR, Rich's logs duped out at 9,205 QSO's with 327 multipliers for a final score of 9,030,105. The band-by-band breakdown appears below, as does the rate sheet. Rich has assured me that this is absolutely his final "low key" contest effort, and that he will talk faster next time. "I'm going to make a serious effort next time," Rich was heard to say.

Congratulations, Rich! And, congratulations to you and Rebecca on the birth of Richard Joseph Smith, Jr. on April 27, 1988. The CW ops in the Club plan to get him some code practice tapes at the earliest opportunity.

<u>Band</u>	<u>QSO's</u>	<u>Countries</u>
160	227	47
80	523	54
40	719	56
20	2502	57
15	1863	57
10	3377	56
TOTALS	9205	327

1987 AWARDS BANQUET

1987 CQ WPX Contest

Phone DX:	Multi/Single PJ2FR by N6KT and PJ2FR	9,252,307 points
	Single Op: 6Y4V by AI6V	6,405,750 points
Phone Local:	Multi/Single N6RO by KI6P - N6RO, K3EST, WA6VEF	5,825,328 points
	Plaque to N6RO, framed certificates to K3EST, WA6VEF	
	Single Op: K6HNZ (Plaque)	1,844,208 points
CW Local:	Multi/Single AI6V by AI6V and N6TR	2,041,848 points
	(Plaque to AI6V)	
	Single Op. KI6P by WA6VEF	2,226,860 points
	(Plaque to WA6VEF)	

FOUNDERS AWARD - 1987

NC7K - Tim Marek

1987 CQ WPX FRAMED CERTIFICATES

WPX SSB DX	4X/K6KLY	RUSS BENTSON	-	555,345 points
WPX SSB	WX6M	RICH HUDGINS		796,860 points
WPX CW	VE2AQS/W6	BOB ST. GERMAIN		868,530 points
WPX Both modes	AJ6V	ED RADLO		1,250,872 points

1987 ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

NC7K - TIM MAREK

(This should have been given out at the Christmas Banquet)

1987 SWEEPSTAKES

KB-2000 AWARD:	WA6VEF	1160 CW	1596 SSB	Total	2,756 points
	W6OAT	121 CW	842 SSB	Total	2,053 points
KB-1000 AWARD:	AI6V		SSB		1,168 points
	KI6CG		SSB		1,150 points

BIG GUN AWARD:	W6OAT at WA7NIN (CW)	WA6VEF at N6BT (SSB)
LITTLE GUN AWARD:	K6XO (CW)	W6BSY (SSB)

The CQP AWARDS were given out by WA6VEF as published before.

Phil Frazier, K6ZM AWARDS MANAGER

COMPUTER ASSISTED CONTESTING

by Ski Brozowsky, N6ADI

The "KT5X Logger" software package offers some real beneficial features not found in previously reviewed software packages for the IBM compatible machines. To effectively use the program your hardware should consist of an IBM-PC, AT or compatible, color-graphics video adapter or emulation and at least 128K memory, more is better, and two drives or a hard disk (hard disk, better!) The program was used on an AT compatible, 640K memory, EGA card, color monitor and 20 meg hard drive. The program was written by Frederick Maas, KT5X, when he was saddled with some of the same problems that we all face when trying to use computers for real time logging during contests, too many key strokes for data entry, too slow dupe status response, limitations on log size, having to keep penciled notes along side of logging to correct entry errors at a later date, confusion memorizing key functions in the heat of the battle and other related problems. All of these problems were considered while writing and modifying the KT5X program, which represents over 1500 hours of effort.

Fred states, "too many keystrokes were eliminated by lumping all exchange data into one line entry and allowing the computer to analyze that entry to understand what was what. The slow duping status response originally encountered, was defeated by placing a separate duping file on a RAMdisk and searching it with a computer trick (3200 QSO's are dupe checked in the same milli-second that 5 QSO's are dupe checked). Memory restrictions limiting log size were defeated by not keeping the log in memory at all because the RAMdisk file eliminated the need for it. The need for pencilled notes has been eliminated by providing a way to amend any entry at any time during logging operations. Confusion with Function Keys was eliminated by careful planning, thus, reducing the need for numerous commands." The program is totally menu driven.

Fred wanted to make the program extremely flexible for a variety of contests and was able to make the duping function selectable between once per contest or once per band. By providing a way to write your own multiplier list, it could now count any list made for any contest. For a long time, Fred states, "he was stymied by counting countries because there are so many of them, and in most contests they are counted once per band." His solution was to count ANY unique abbreviation given after the character "-" such that

following a DX contest entry of 599 KW you could add -KH6, and if such had not been input on that band it would be counted as a multiplier. If the operator is in too much of a hurry to enter the country prefix, it can be added after the contest. If the operator enters two different prefixes for the same country, it will be counted twice but can later be corrected through editing the QSO data. In the case of CQWW, which counts countries and zones, a "+" allows for an additional multiplier for any QSO. Example 599-27+JA would result in two multipliers, provided that 27 and JA were not already worked.

Fred became interested in adding beam headings to the program based on your Longitude and Latitude, which is input during the program installation procedure. By entering any ARRL DX prefix and tapping the spacebar, it will yield beam heading from your exact location and exact distance to targeted DX. Another feature for those UHF/VHF contesters is beam heading and distance by GRID SQUARE. It will also automatically calculate the contest score using distance as is done in Europe. This can save European operators many hours of calculating!

At this point in the program development Fred found that he was only using a pencil for noting the call on which he had left a second VFO during spot checking for multipliers. He added the function <ESC> (for keep), which holds that call in memory and <ESC> I, which retrieves it. After adding this last feature Fred found tht real time logging with the computer was faster than with a pencil, dupe checking was light years faster, usable information was instantly available and log processing after the contest was painless and quick. Fred states, "I often found the log enveloped ten minutes after the contest was over."

Most contest operators hate the logging, scoring, duping and QSLing chores that are required by participation in the sport. With the computer doing most of these chores you can truly enjoy the heat of battle without having to think about all the work that follows. Can contesting be fun without the work?

The program is presently difficult to read on many black and white monitors but this summer Fred plans to add a color versus black and white selection to eliminate the difficulty. Fred, KT5X, was first licensed in 1958 and is ex K3EPQ, WA2EBR and WA4JFY. He holds 27 ARRL section contest awards, top ten SS at least once, 2nd in the nation once in the old CD contest, one all time Field Day record (since broken), one all time DX test record (total countries on one band, 20 meters, under the old rules) and numerous other awards.

I tried the program out for ARRL DX CW, 1988 and found it to be a real aid in the shack. I worked 620 QSO's and 76 countries on 40 meters as a single op, single band entry. I found the following features provided by the program to be functional, reliable and a pleasure to use:

Smooth data entry without having to memorize function keys, instant dupe checking, full access to amend any QSO during or after the contest, extensive help screen functions, time on the air and remaining in the contest (with off times computed), QSO rates computed (contacts by hour), toggles for (real-time printouts, auto/manual dupe rejection, auto/manual time/date stamping), remarkable multiplier functions and options, QSO total by band and mode, ability to (view remaining multipliers needed, save a call, view number of multipliers in the log), and print dupe sheets alphabetically, by call area or by band (fast). It also prints logs with summary in generic contest, sweepstakes or DX contest formats. I tried a sample UHF/VHF contest run and found the program would actually calculate the scores based on RSGB and European distance methods.

The program was a real joy to use and quite useful in eliminating the pencil from the shack! Fred wrote the program specifically for his own use, but found it to be such a useful tool in the shack that he is now sharing it with those interested parties at a very reasonable price. In a recent letter he said, "If the enjoyment of contesting is enhanced by the program for a few operators for which they reimburse me two cents an hour for my programming efforts, I'd be happy!"

For more information on the "KT5X LOGGER" program, contact Fred Maas, KT5X, Rt. 9, Box 86-H, Santa Fe, NM 87505, (505) 988-4681.

Tnx to SCCCORE, Southern
California Contest Club
Operations, Results,
Enlightenments

MIKE YOUNG, K6MBV, SILENT KEY

Mike Young, K6MBV, became a silent key on April 13, 1988, at the age of 46 as a result of cancer which had been diagnosed only two weeks earlier. Mike loved DXing, CW, contesting and experimenting with antennas.

Ham radio played a particularly important part in Mike's life a few years ago while he was recovering from a prolonged illness; chasing DX was about the only activity which could take his mind off his pain and it gave him the will to get back on his feet.

Mike liked to operate in CQWW, Sweepstakes, CQP, Field Day and the contests for telephone company employees. He served as an NCCC coordinator for CQP. He was the coordinator for Pacific Bell employees in the Western Electric Contest.

For the past two years, Mike headed up the field day effort of the East Bay Amateur Radio Club and his organizational talents led to greatly improved scores. In the recent CQP, Mike placed third in hotly contested Alameda County; he received his certificate in the hospital and was quite pleased.

Mike was first licensed in 1958 as KN6MBV. He had been a communications technician at Pacific Bell since 1964. He held an extra class license and was also a member of the Northern California DX Club and a life member of the ARRL.

Bob Fabry, N6EK

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